

NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

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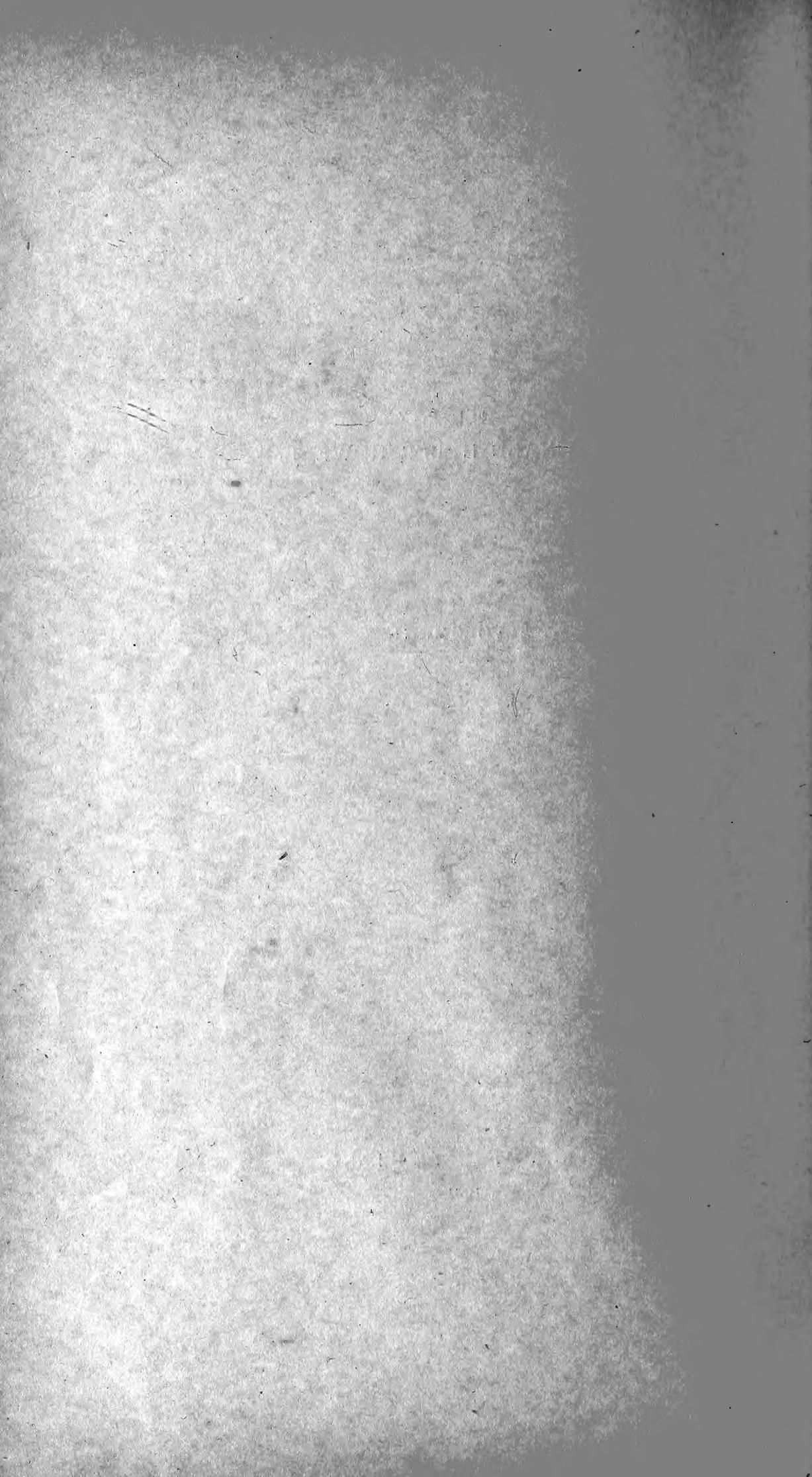
REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR.

VOLUME II



BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

1901



APR 16 1901

VOL. II

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NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

JANUARY

1901

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RHODE ISLAND

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"The Birds of Massachusetts."

Reginald Heber Howe, Junior, and Glover Morrill Allen have in preparation a work on "The Birds of Massachusetts" to be published by subscription in the Autumn of 1901. The work will embody all the published local lists of the State, beside annotated lists from desirable localities on the Coast supplied by well-known ornithologists. No complete list of the Birds of the State has been published since Dr. J. A. Allen's in 1885, and the present work will bring into permanent form the much increased knowledge of the Birds of Massachusetts since that date. No pains will be spared to have the List complete and useful. The divisions of the work will be as follows:—*Introduction, Discussion of Faunal Areas, a fully Annotated List of Species, a List of Extirpated and Extinct Species, of Introduced Species, of Species Erroneously Recorded, a Hypothetical List, a Bibliography and Indices.* Paper, \$1.25. Cloth, \$1.75.

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NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY, a quarterly publication for the purpose of furthering interest in ornithology in the State of Rhode Island. Published and edited by Reginald Heber Howe, Junior. Address, Longwood, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Terms, one dollar (\$1.00) a year. Single numbers, twenty-five cents (.25).

All material for publication, advertisements, and books for review should be sent to the Editor.

The subscribers to 'Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology' with but a few exceptions have renewed their subscriptions for the year 1901, thus showing both their appreciation of the paper, and their belief in the good work it is doing. It is hoped that those who have not as yet renewed their subscription will do so at once, that the paper may fulfill more thoroughly its purpose.

The Editor wishes to thank Mrs. Le Roy King of Newport, Mrs. William Gammel of Providence, and Mrs. H. L. Russell of East Greenwich, for their liberality and public spirit in making it possible for him to send this publication to twelve of the larger public libraries of Rhode Island, both for the past and the current year.

WINTER BIRDS OF LAKE WORDEN, WASHINGTON
COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND — NOVEMBER 21 TO
DECEMBER 24, 1900.

BY EDGAR A. MEARNs, M. D.

DURING the period covered by these observations I was domiciled at Lake Cottage, a boarding-house located at the mouth of Mink Brook, in the township of South Kingston. The proprietor, Mr. Lorenzo A. Knowles, is quite familiar with the birds of the region, and imparted much information respecting the birds of other seasons and former years. He showed me mounted specimens of the Scarlet Tanager and Ruby-throated Hummingbird which he had taken at Lake Worden. Among the facts of interest learned from him are the presence in summer of a breeding colony of Cliff Swallows on the farm of Mr. Clark, a near neighbor; and, according to Mr. Knowles and his son (Mr. John Kenyon Knowles), the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*) is still

resident and breeds sparingly in the Great Swamp of Richmond and South Kingston townships. Mr. John Kenyon Knowles saw "Wild Pigeons" on three occasions during my sojourn at his house, twice on the east side of Lake Worden (one November 24, and two December 8, 1900) and once on some burnt timber-lands near the saw-mill in the Great Swamp (small flock December 12, 1900). If these birds were not Mourning Doves, their occurrence is of considerable interest, as the last Wild Pigeon known to have been taken in Rhode Island is supposed to have been killed in 1886.

Besides the birds positively identified, there were a few Ducks that I was unable to determine; and Mr. Knowles and his son saw a Crow Blackbird on one or two occasions. Numerous nests of summer birds were observed, including those of Woodpeckers, Cuckoo, Red-winged Blackbird, Vireos, and others; and there were unmistakable evidences of the former presence of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in apple-orchards.

Mr. Samuel Eldred, of Wakefield, purchased from a gunner, late in November or early in December, a Woodcock weighing six ounces. Mr. Lorenzo A. Knowles once shot a Woodcock on Christmas day, near Lake Worden.

The birds actually seen and identified were as follows:—

Loon (*Gavia imber*).—One or more could almost always be seen on Lake Worden and Larkins Pond (about two miles north), until these waters were frozen over, December 9.

American Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).—Occasionally seen on Lake Worden until December 9.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*).—Three adults on Lake Worden, December 3, and one December 8, 1900.

American Merganser (*Merganser americanus*).—This species, locally known as the "Break-horn Sheldrake," is frequently associated with the next, resorting to air-holes in Lake Worden throughout the winter.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Merganser serrator*).—Large flocks of this species and the preceding resorted to the air-holes in the lake as soon as the water was frozen. At dusk their peculiar voices were always heard. On the coldest days the air-holes were so reduced in size that all could not be accommodated and many were left standing upon the ice, in long rows, where the smaller size of the present species plainly distinguished them from the "Break-horns."

Black Duck (*Anas obscura*).—About the middle of December, Black Ducks, which had hitherto been confined to such open streams as are

fed by warm springs, began to appear in air-holes on Lake Worden. They arrived towards sunset and apparently spent the night, returning to salt water in the morning. One was shot December 22, on Mink Brook, where some were usually present during my stay, as the water remained unfrozen.

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*).—Mr. Samuel Eldred shot three in Tuckers Pond, about a mile southeast of Lake Worden, in November, 1900.

American Golden-eye (*Clangula clangula americana*).—A flock of ten, mostly old males, seen on Larkins Pond, November 28, 1900.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*).—Seven were on Lake Worden November 21, and pairs and small flocks were frequently seen thereafter until December 9, when the pond was closed by freezing. A passing flock was heard December 16. An adult male, taken December 1, 1900, measured : Length, 655 mm.; alar expanse, 1760; wing, 500; tail, 200; culmen (chord), 58; tarsus, 96; middle toe with claw, 98. Iris, dark hazel. Legs and feet, olivaceous black; webs plumbeous black. Bill, black. Weight, $9\frac{1}{4}$ pounds.

Several farmers about Lake Worden keep domesticated Canada Geese, from which hybrids, mostly with the India Goose, are commonly reared for the market, commanding high prices. Pure Canada Geese are also bred in confinement, but do not fetch as much as the half-bloods, which are reputed to be peculiarly delicious food.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*).—One was seen on Lake Worden, December 3, 1900.

Bob White (*Colinus virginianus*).—"Quail" are quite plentiful about Lake Worden.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*).—A few years ago "Partridges" became almost extinct about Lake Worden, most of the young birds having died from a disease known as "pips"; but their numbers have increased for several years past. At Rockville, town of Hopkinton, one market gunner killed nine and two others fourteen Ruffed Grouse in a day. These persons made their last shipment of thirty-four Grouse on December 11, 1900.

Mr. Samuel Eldred, of Wakefield, Rhode Island, purchased, in December, 1900, a Ruffed Grouse from Mr. Joshua T. Bradley, who stated that the bird was one of several young Grouse caught by him in 1883, and marked by clipping off their hind and inner claws. This bird bore evidences of extreme age.

Bald Eagle (*Haliæetus leucocephalus*).—An immature bird was seen December 22. Eagles were formerly common about Lake Worden.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio accipitrinus*).—Local name, "Bog Owl." A male was killed, December 19, 1900, in a Marsh at Goulds Neck Swamp, a few miles from Lake Worden, in the town of Charlestown. Its stomach was empty.

Barred Owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*).—A male was shot in the Great Swamp, December 21, 1900. Measurements: Length, 510 mm.; alar

expanses, 1125; wing, 350; tail, 235; cord of culmen and cere, taken together, 38; culmen (chord), 24; tarsus, 53; middle toe with claw, 56. Iris, very dark brown, appearing black. Bill and cere, greenish yellow, the latter slightly more greenish than the bill. Toes greenish yellow; claws, dusky plumbeous, horn color at base.

Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*).—A male, gray phase, was trapped December 19, 1900, in a pigeon-cote, where it had recently killed a domestic Pigeon, remains of which constituted the sole contents of its stomach. Frequently heard throughout the period. Several were shot or caught in neighboring localities.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*).—Heard almost nightly, and occasionally seen, at twilight, about Lake Cottage. An Owl of some kind carried off meat with which our traps were baited, but eluded our efforts to entrap it. One was caught in a mink trap, on Point Judith Salt Pond, in December, 1900, and kept in captivity.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*).—Rather uncommon and unusually shy; one or more seen almost daily during our stay. One shot, and one seen feeding, upon the ground, in a thicket.

Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens medianus*).—One taken November 27, 1900; occasionally seen thereafter, but less frequently than the common type.

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*).—Frequently seen until December 24, sometimes several in one locality. Local name, "Pigeon Woodpecker."

Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris*).—Small flocks were occasionally seen, usually in fallows, but much less commonly than along the coast.

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*).—Common, but shy and secretive. Five specimens collected were all taken in traps set for mammals and baited with meat or apple. The outcry in Bluejayland when one of their number was entrapped could be heard for miles; otherwise, they were more silent and prone to slyly disappear than I have known them elsewhere. Many old nests were seen.

American Crow (*Corvus americanus*).—The town of South Kingston has for years paid a bounty of twenty-five cents upon old Crows, and fifteen cents upon young ones. They have become scarce except for the occasional appearance of flocks of "coasters" from Narragansett Bay and the ocean. Several were seen daily during my residence at Lake Cottage, in which neighborhood it sometimes breeds.

Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*).—Occasionally seen in small flocks. Local name, "Marsh Quail."

American Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis*).—A flock of about thirty was always present at Lake Cottage, frequenting a vineyard and apple-orchard when the ground was bare, and descending to feed upon the birches in a neighboring cedar swamp whenever snow covered the ground. Other flocks were sometimes seen in the region.

Snowflake (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—An adult male was shot from a

small flock swirling over the frozen lake, December 22, 1900. Local name, "Snow-Lark."

Tree Sparrow (*Spizella monticola*).—Many were present on my arrival at Lake Worden, November 21, and remained until my departure, December 24. At first they were commonly seen in large flocks, but were latterly seen singly, in pairs, or in small groups.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*).—Occasionally seen throughout the period, but usually not abundant.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza meloda*).—Uncommon, but usually seen at intervals of a few days, infesting waterways and swampy thickets.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*).—One November 26, and one November 27, 1900, in a cedar swamp beside Lake Worden.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—A nuisance at Lake Cottage. Flocks commonly resort to the farms, even those several miles from towns.

Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*).—Young specimens taken November 23 and 28, 1900, had fed on beetles and other insects; frequently seen thereafter. The first adult bird was seen December 21, others later. Local name, "Mock Hawk." It was seen pursuing small birds on several occasions.

Myrtle Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*).—Common and generally dispersed, feeding on red juniper and bayberries.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hyemalis*).—Quite common, frequenting stumpy bogs and the vicinity of streams that remained unfrozen, often searching caves under the ice.

Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*).—Flocks of busy Chickadees were my constant companions when trapping, and they were not slow to avail themselves of the abundant supply of food which the meat used in baiting our traps furnished them. Mrs. Knowles caught one of them in her hand and then released it.

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*).—Common and generally distributed; often seen in bushes on the pond shores.

Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*).—One December 3, 1900.

American Robin (*Merula migratoria*).—A few small flocks remained throughout the period. On December 19, there was a considerable flight of Robins across Lake Worden.

Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*).—Common throughout; more so than I have found them before since the blizzards of recent years which killed so many of them.

GENERAL NOTES.

A Tern Colony.—Mr. John L. Livermore writes Mr. Edward Sturtevant that there has been for a long time a small colony of Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) breeding on a long, low rock off "The Cliffs" at Newport, R. I., north of Rough Point.

EDITOR.

A Correction.—The fifteen Grackles reported under Spring Arrivals 1900 at Bristol Ferry, March 7, in No. 2, p. 10, of this publication, should have been credited to Mr. E. Sturtevant, not to Mr. H. S. Hathaway.

Rare Shore Birds taken in R. I.—The following Sandpipers were taken by Mr. Wm. R. Davenport at Middletown, R. I., this past autumn, 1900: Five Stilt Sandpipers (*Micropalama himantopus*) Aug. 25; nine, Aug. 27; two, Sept. 5; and one Sept. 8. One Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*) Sept. 10, and one Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*) Sept. 13. I saw and identified the Baird's, Buff-breasted, and three of the Stilts.

Taunton, Mass., Oct. 26, 1900.

A. C. BENT.

The European Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*) in R. I.—In C. J. Maynard's "Birds of Eastern United States," Revised Edition, 1896, p. 221, I find the following: "First recorded from New Jersey and Rhode Island by George W. [N.] Lawrence, in 1866," referring to the European Woodcock. Mr. Maynard's authority seems to be based on Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's "North American Birds" Water Birds, Vol. I, 1884, p. 181, from which I quote "Mr. George N. Lawrence cites another instance, where a friend of his shot, near Newport, R. I., a large Woodcock, which weighed fourteen ounces"; as the identification is based alone on weight this species must be included as a Rhode Island bird with some misgivings. It is stated, however, "that our Woodcock rarely reaches and never exceeds nine ounces, while the usual weight of the European [bird] is fourteen."

Cambridge, Mass., Nov., 1900.

GLOVER M. ALLEN.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher in R. I.—On May 24, 1900, at Chepachet, R. I., I saw a single Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Chepachet, R. I., June 13, 1900.

JULIA M. HILL.

A Trip to Cormorant Rock.—On Dec. 1, 1900, the writer sailed off to Cormorant Rock on a shooting excursion. The following species of birds were observed on the Rock or in its immediate vicinity: Sheldrake (*Merganser serrator*), Eider (*Somateria dresseri*), Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa maritima*), Golden Eye (*Clangula c. americana*), Black Duck (*Anas obscura*), Surf Scoter (*Oidemia perspicillata*), American Scoter (*O. americana*), White-winged Scoter (*O. deglandi*), Old Squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*), Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Double-crested Cormorant (*P. auritus*), Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Kittiwake (*Rissa trydactyla*), Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), seven, Razor-billed Auks (*Alca torda*), Brünnich's Murre (*Uria lomvia*), Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*), Loon (*Gavia imber*). About twenty Eider Ducks were seen and two Harlequins, one of which was shot. Numbers of Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) were observed flying overhead.

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LEROY KING.

Unusual Abundance of the Coot and Other Notes.—A large flock of 800 to 1000 Coot (*Fulica americana*) have been feeding in Point Judith Pond since the middle of October and were still there on Nov. 30, 1900. This is the second year that they have been seen in such numbers. A fine male adult Pintail (*Dafila acuta*) was shot by Capt. H. M. Knowles, U. S. Life Saving Service, on Nov. 4, 1900, at Point Judith Pond; and was presented by him to the C. H. Smith Collection in the Museum of Natural History at Roger Williams Park. There was a female in company with this bird, and another party on the same day secured a male from a flock of about twenty. Dr. John W. Keefe, of Providence, informed me that he shot an adult male Baldpate (*Mareca americana*) at Point Judith marsh, during the latter part of Sept., 1900. Two were seen. A male Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) was shot at Point Judith marsh on Nov. 29, 1900, which is a late date for it. There is in the C. H. Smith Collection at Roger Williams Park a fine adult King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*) which was shot between Narragansett Pier and Point Judith by Rowland A. Gavitt in February, 1897. It was in company with a small flock of American Eiders which had been feeding in this locality during the winter.

South Auburn, Dec. 8, 1900.

HARRY S. HATHAWAY.

Another Golden Eagle in Rhode Island.—Another Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) has been taken in Rhode Island. This Eagle, a female, in nearly complete plumage, now in my collection, was shot November 10th, 1900, in Tiverton, on a farm near Tiverton Four Corners, by a Portuguese farm-hand.

Fall River, Mass., December 26, 1900.

J. B. RICHARDS.

Autumn Notes from Rhode Island.—The Bay Snipe shooting this year (1900) at Newport and vicinity was poorer than usual owing to the excessive drought which dried up all the marshes. Towards the end of the summer, however, the writer made some fair bags. Among the birds he shot, the following records may be of interest; July 23, English Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*); July 29, one Greater Yellowleg (*Totanus melanoleucus*); Aug. 3, three Stilt Sandpipers (*Macropalama himantopus*); July 16, one Dowitcher (*Macrorhamphus griseus*); Aug. 23, one Stilt Sandpiper (*M. himantopus*); Sept. 8, one Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*) (recorded before); Sept. 11, two Dowitches (*M. griseus*); Sept. 19, twenty-four Pectoral Sandpiper (*Tringa maculata*), six Golden Plover (*Charadrius dominicus*), nine Greater Yellowlegs (*T. melanoleucus*), thirteen Lesser Yellowlegs (*T. flavipes*); Nov. 29, one English Snipe (*G. delicata*); Dec. 1, one Harlequin Duck; Dec. 21, one Mallard. (*Anas boschas*) was taken near Prudence Island.

Newport.

LE ROY KING.

A Trip to Cormorant Rock.—I spent December 22, 23, and 24, 1900, with Mr. Edward Sturtevant at Newport. On the 22 we tramped out over the Second Beach Marshes, Middletown, and were interested to find a

large flocks of Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) and Shore Larks (*Otocoris alpestris*) on the Sachuest Pt. uplands. Out of the flock of Shore Larks we took one specimen of *praticola*. On our way back across the marshes we started a flock of seven wintering Savanna Sparrows (*Passerculus s. savanna*), they evidently winter here not irregularly. On the 23d we sailed from Newport around Breton's Reef to Cormorant Rock. Great numbers of old Squaws (*Harelda hyemalis*) and Mergansers (*Merganser serrator*) were about, also five flocks of Black Duck (*Anas obscura*) beside Kittawakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), Loons (*Gavia imber*), one Red-throated Loon (*G. lumme*). We landed on the Rock, after starting from it a large flock of Cormorants, principally *carbo*, and two Purple Sandpipers (*Tringa maritima*). Near the Rock a Red-necked Grebe (*Colymbus holboellii*) was swimming. The day was mild enough for September; the wind light S. W.

EDITOR.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE NOTES, 1900.

Warbling Vireo (<i>Vireo gilvus</i>).	Two, Sept. 25.	Vicinity of Newport, Louis di Zeg- era Mearns.
Yellow-Palm Warbler (<i>Dendroeca p. hypochrysea</i>).	One, Sept. 26.	
Black and White Creeper (<i>Mniotilla varia</i>).	One, Oct. 7.	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>).	One, Oct. 7.	
Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).	Two, Oct. 8.	
Red-eyed Vireo (<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>).	One, Oct. 11.	
White-throated Sparrow (<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>).	Flock., Oct. 11-13.	
Greater Scaup Duck (<i>Aythya marila</i>).	One ♂, Oct. 14.	
Catbird (<i>Galeoscoptes carolinensis</i>).	One, Oct. 13.	
Brown Thrasher (<i>Harporrhynchus rufus</i>).	One, Oct. 13.	
Savannah Sparrow (<i>Passerculus s. savanna</i>).	Two, Oct. 23.	
Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>).	One, Oct. 31,	Harry S. Hathaway.
	Cranston.	

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- Bird-lore, Vol. II, No. 4, 5, 6, Aug., Oct., Dec., 1900.
 The Auk, XVII, No. 3, 4, July, Oct., 1900.
 The Condor, Vol. II, No. 4, 5, 6, July and Aug., Sept. and Oct., Nov. and Dec. 1900.
 The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. II, No. 3 1900.
 The Wilson Bulletin, No. 32, Vol. VII, No. 3 July, 1900.
 Proc. of the Nebraska Ornithological Union, January, 1900.

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The winter of 1900-01 has been exceedingly barren of birds throughout New England, Rhode Island being no exception. This number therefore is necessarily scant, and the editor wishes to take this opportunity when the paper affords room to point out some birds which it is hoped Rhode Island ornithologists will keep in mind, that either their status within our limits may be better known, or that in some cases we may add them to our fauna.

Those about which we need more data are as follows: Acadian Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni subvirgatus*), dates of migration; American Crow (*Corvus americanus*) and American Robin (*Merula migratoria*), their roosts; Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia mitrata*), whether it does not occur sparingly on the southern border of the State.

A sharp lookout should also be kept for the following species as they should occur in the State: Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), Northern Eider (*Somateria m. borealis*), Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans*), Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax t. alnorum*), Greater Redpoll (*Acanthis l. rostrata*), Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*), Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintherus vermivorus*), the two latter birds have been found in Connecticut a little way over the Rhode Island line.

WATER-BIRD SHOOTING ABOUT NEWPORT FROM
1867 TO 1874.

The following list of birds is sent me by Mr. Edward Sturtevant, which were killed by a single gunner, Mr. Robt. L. Dring, on the Newport and Jamestown marshes. This list not only shows

how scarce our water-birds are now, to what they used to be, but why they have become scarce. Mr. Dring is to be praised over other gunners on having made careful notes on his shooting, as the present data is of interest and of scientific value:

- 1867: *Porzana carolina* (Sora Rail) Sept. 23-24 = 29 birds.
Philohela minor (Woodcock) Nov. 1 to 5 = 7 birds.
Gallinago delicata (Snipe) Aug. 28 to Oct. 14 = 47 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus (Dowitcher) Aug. 8 to 23 = 81 birds.
Micropalama himantopus (Mongrel) Aug. 8 to 21 = 32 birds.
Tringa canutus (Robin Snipe) Aug. 20 to Sept. 10 = 32 birds.
Tringa maculata (Creeker) Aug. 11 to Oct. 20 = 402 birds.
Tringa alpina pacifica (Winter Snipe) Oct. 2 to 14 = 9 birds.
Limosa fedoa (Big Marlin) Aug. 18 = 4 birds.
Limosa haemastica (Ring-tailed Marlin) Aug. 12 to Sept. 15 = 21 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus (Big Legs) Aug. 18 to Oct. 4 = 135 birds.
Totanus flavipes (Yellow-legs) Aug. 8 to Sept. 18 = 135 birds.
Sympedium semipalmata (Willet) Aug. 24 = 7 birds.
Numenius hudsonicus (Jack Curlew) Aug. 26 = 12 birds.
Charadrius dominicus (Green-heads) Aug. 25 to Sept. 17 = 55 birds.
Anas obscura (Black Duck) Sept. 15 to Oct. 14 = 4 birds.
Dafila acuta (Gray Duck) Sept. 21 = 2 birds.
Querquedula discors (Blue-winged Teal) Sept. 1 to 20 = 43 birds.
Total, 1050 birds.
- 1868: *Gallinago delicata*, Aug. 12 to Nov. 11 = 65 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus, July 24 to Oct. 2 = 98 birds.
Tringa maculata, July 24 to Oct. 19 = 92 birds.
Limosa fedoa, Aug. 30 to Oct. 2 = 10 birds.
Limosa haemastica, Aug. 19 to Oct. 3 = 4 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus, Aug. 14 to Oct. 11 = 94 birds.
Totanus flavipes, July 14 to Sept. 27 = 291 birds.
Sympedium semipalmata, Aug. 21 = 2 birds.
Charadrius dominicus, Aug. 14 to Sept. 24 = 47 birds.
Aegialitis vocifera, Aug. 1 = 1 bird.
Arenaria interpres, Sept. 3-5 = 4 birds.
Querquedula discors, Sept. 23 = 3 birds.
Anas obscura, Oct. 16 = 1 bird.
Dafila acuta, Oct. 2 to Nov. 11 = 2 birds.
Chaulelasmus streperus (Widgeon) Oct. 8 = 7 birds.
Aix sponsa (Wood Duck) Sept. 26 = 2 birds.
Nyroca marila (Broad-bills) Oct. 1 to 21 = 27 birds.
Charitonetta albeola (Buffle-head) Nov. 5 = 15 birds.
Rallus virginianus (Virginia Rail) Aug. 10 to Sept. 12 = 5 birds.
Porzana carolina, Sept. 2 to Oct. 7 = 4 birds.

Colinus virginianus (Quail) Oct. 15 to Nov 11 = 37 birds.

Ectopistes migratorius (Wild Pigeon) Oct. 19 = 1 bird.

Total, 812 birds.

(To be continued.)

GENERAL NOTES.

Spring Arrival Notes.—Robins arrived here at Newport on March 3, and Purple Grackles on March 18. The first flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, six in number, came on March 18 and Cowbirds on the 24th. There have been a great many Horned Grebes about of late off the shore.

Newport, March 21, 1900.

EDWARD STURTEVANT.

Second Record of the Henslow's Sparrow for R. I.—Messrs. A. C. Bent of Taunton and Owen Durfee of Fall River, upon the occasion of a recent visit in looking over my collection found a specimen of a young Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowi*) which I had mistaken for a young Yellow-winged Sparrow and had labelled it as such. The bird was taken Oct. 6, 1898 in Warwick, R. I., near the Pawtuxet River and at the time it was alone feeding in some white birch saplings.

The only other record is a male taken the last of April 1874 in Cranston by Mr. F. T. Jencks, and recorded in the "Birds of Rhode Island" by Howe and Sturtevant.

South Auburn, R. I.

H. S. HATHAWAY.

***Uria troile* in Rhode Island.**—Although Mr. Sturtevant and I included the Murre in our "Birds of Rhode Island" I now doubt very much whether this bird has a right to a place in our fauna. After careful examination of many specimens from Massachusetts in connection with my work on the birds of that State soon to be published, I failed to find a single authentic specimen, though the species has been attributed to the State for years. I have not examined the specimen recorded taken at Point Judith, but I have little doubt it would prove on careful examination to be *Uria lomvia*.

Longwood, Mass.

EDITOR.

Winter Notes. While out for a walk on Dec. 30, 1900, in Warwick, I started a flock of 8 or 10 Blue Jays out of a small swamp and was much surprised to see a Grackle (species ?) fly into a maple sapling. I have visited the swamp three times since but have been unable to find the bird again.

Bluebirds have been around my house all winter; two males and a female having been noted in December and January on several occasions.

The first Red-wing Blackbird, a ♂, arrived here on March 15 and a Kingfisher was heard on the 16th.

The warm weather of yesterday (the 18th) brought a bird wave and I

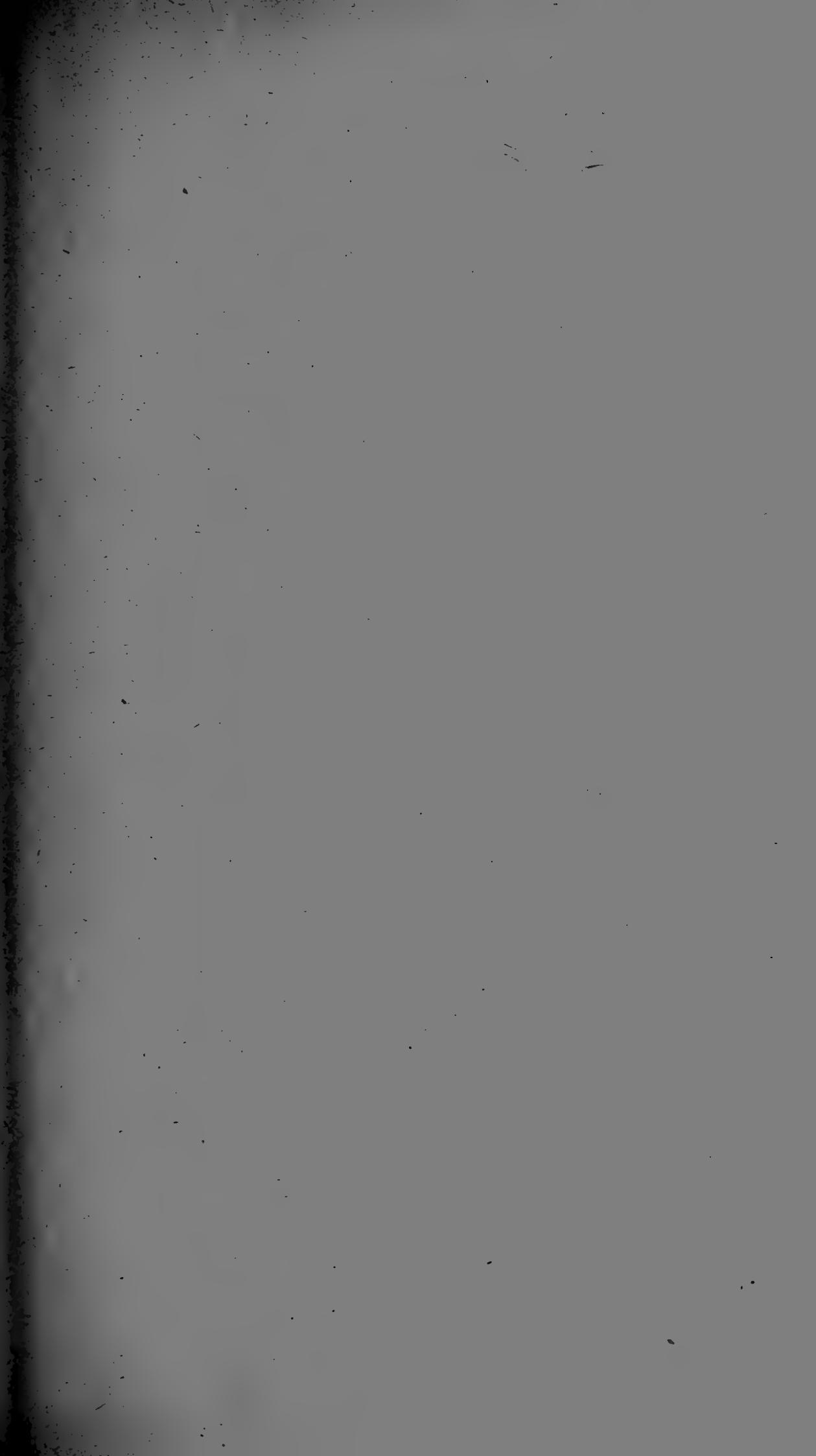
noted the first Robins (2), First Grackles (sp. ?) 34, and a flock of Wild Geese at night. This morning, the 19th, heard first Cowbird (1), several Robins and Red-wings.

South Auburn, R. I.

H. S. HATHAWAY.

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NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

JULY

1901

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RHODE ISLAND



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NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY.

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NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY, a quarterly publication for the purpose of furthering interest in ornithology in the State of Rhode Island. Published and edited by Reginald Heber Howe, Junior. Address, Longwood, Brookline, Massachusetts.

Terms, one dollar (\$1.00) a year. Single numbers, twenty-five cents. (.25).

All material for publication, advertisements, and books for review should be sent to the Editor.

WATER-BIRD SHOOTING ABOUT NEWPORT FROM 1867 TO 1874.

(Continued.)

AUTUMN.

1869 : *Gallinago delicata*, Aug. 10 to Oct. 15 = 27 birds.

Macrorrhampus griseus, July 21 to Sept. 7 = 128 birds.

Micropalama himantopus, Aug. 20 to Sept. 9 = 15 birds.

Tringa maculata, July 22 to Oct. 11 = 218 birds.

Tringa canutus, Aug. 1 to Sept. 14 = 108 birds.

Limosa fedoa, Sept. 5 = 1 bird.

Limosa haemastica, July 29 to Oct. 9 = 23 birds.

Totanus melanoleucus, July 22 to Oct. 26 = 128 birds.

Totanus flavipes, July 16 to Sept. 22 = 298 birds.

Sympheeria semipalmata, Aug. 8 to Sept. 18 = 34 birds.

Charadrius dominicus, Aug. 27 to Oct. 9 = 40 birds.

Aegialitis vocifera, July 21 = 1 bird.

Bartramia longicauda (Grass Plover), Aug. 31 = 5 birds.

Querquedula discors, Sept. 2 to 22 = 35 birds.

Nettion carolinense (Green-winged Teal) Nov. 7 = 4 birds.

Anas obscura, Oct. 19 = 1 bird.

Dafila acuta, Sept. 9 = 1 bird.

Nyroca marila (Scaup Duck¹) Nov. 7 = 11 birds.

Nyroca vallisneria (Canvas-back), Oct. 9 = 2 birds.

¹ Birds before called *Nyroca marila* should have been called *Erismatura jamaicensis*.

- Nyroca americana* (Red-head), Oct. 17 to Nov. 7 = 4 birds.
Charitonetta albeola, Oct. 27 to 30 = 19 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis (Broad-bill), Sept. 2 to Nov. 7 = 163 birds.
Rallus virginianus, July 27 = 1 bird.
Porzana carolina, Aug. 25 to Sept. 13 = 2 birds.
Fulica americana (Pond Coot), Sept. 29 to Oct. 24 = 56 birds.
 Total, 1306 birds.

SPRING.

- 1870: *Gallinago delicata*, Apr. 23 to 24 = 27 birds.
Nyroca vallisneria, April = 1 bird.

AUTUMN.

- Gallinago delicata*, July 30 to Nov. 3 = 16 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus, July 15 to Oct. 20 = 190 birds.
Micropalama himantopus, July 31 to Sept. 6 = 46 birds.
Tringa maculata, July 16 to Oct. 20 = 134 birds.
Tringa canutus, Aug. 18 to Sept. 6 = 56 birds.
Limosa fedoa, Aug. 12 = 2 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus, July 20 to Nov. 4 = 75 birds.
Totanus flavipes, July 13 to Oct. 1 = 382 birds.
Numerius longirostris (Long-billed Curlew), July 15 = 1 bird.
Arenaria interpres (Rock Plover), Aug. 28 to Sept. 4 = 21 birds.
Charadrius dominicus, Aug. 12 to Oct. 6 = 56 birds.
Ægialitis vocifera, Aug. 20 = 1 bird.
Querquedula discors, Aug. 31 to Nov. 5 = 5 birds.
Nettion carolinense, Sept. 2 to Oct. 31 = 17 birds.
Anas obscura, Sept. 20 to Nov. 18 = 16 birds.
Anas boschas (Mallard), Oct. 22 = 4 birds.
Nyroca marila, Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 = 15 birds.
Æx sponsa, July 30 to Oct. 20 = 14 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis, July 30 to Oct. 26 = 42 birds.
Charitonetta albeola, Nov. 1 to 3 = 4 birds.
Chalelasmus stereoperus, Nov. 18 = 1 bird.
Branta canadensis (Canada Goose), Nov. 1 = 1 bird.
Porzana carolina, Aug. 30 to Oct. 18 = 21 birds.
Fulica americana, Sept 27 to Nov. 5 = 64 birds.

Total, 1178 birds.

SPRING.

- 1871: *Gallinago delicata*, Mar. 26 to Apr. 26. = 236 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus, May 9 to 14 = 22 birds.

AUTUMN.

Macrorrhampus griseus, July 7 to Aug. 24 = 81 birds.
Totanus flavipes, July 7 to Aug. 27 = 192 birds.
Symphebia semipalmata, July 11 to Aug. 8 = 22 birds.
Micropalama himantopus, July 14 to Aug. 13 = 9 birds.
Gallinago delicata, Aug. 13 to Nov. 14 = 50 birds.
Bartramia longicauda, Aug. 15 to 23 = 11 birds.
Tringa canutus, Aug. 17 to 18 = 23 birds.
Arenaria interpres, Aug. 18 = 1 bird.
Porzana carolina, Aug. 18 to Oct. 6 = 31 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus, Aug. 26 to Oct. 31 = 50 birds.
Querquedula discors, Aug. 27 to Sept. 26 = 2 birds.
Gallinula —? Sept. 28 = 4 birds.
Philohela minor, Sept. 9 to 13 = 6 birds.
Charadrius dominicus, Sept. 10 to Oct. 24. = 36 birds.
Rallus virginianus, Sept. 14 = 1 bird.
Tringa maculata, Sept. 22 to Oct. 18 = 43 birds.
Anas obscura, Sept. 30 to Oct. 7 = 3 birds.
Colinus virginianus, Oct. 10 = 24 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis, Oct. 15 to Nov. 14 = 30 birds.
Fulica americana, Oct. 24 to Nov. 14 = 16 birds.
Nyroca marila, Oct. 31 = 1 bird.
Nettion carolinense, Nov. 5 = 1 bird.
Ax sponsa, Nov. 11 = 1 bird.

Total, 896 birds.

(To be continued.)

GENERAL NOTES.

Various Notes: Parasitic Jaegers in R. I.—Mr. Joel W. White shot three *Stercorarius parasiticus* at Charlestown Beach, R. I. on Sept. 2, 1897.

One of these was mounted and is now in the Charles H. Smith collection at Roger Williams Park. The other two were given to friends and their disposition is unknown. They were all in the young plumage.

Two Records of the Blue-winged Yellow Warbler.—While walking through an old orchard grown up to brush and briars in Hopkinton, R. I. June 7, 1901, my attention was attracted by an unusually queer song which I had not previously heard. After several attempts to discover the bird it alighted in a little oak sapling and I secured the specimen which proved to be a Blue-winged Yellow Warbler. (*Helminthophila pinus*. From the nature of the location I was much inclined to believe

that this bird had a nest there, but all attempt to find it proved fruitless. There is a male of this species in the Charles H. Smith collection at Roger Williams Park which was shot at Stump Hill Pond near Pawtucket, May 30, 1883.

Henslow's Sparrow a Summer Resident in Southern R. I.—On June 6, 1901, in a wet meadow, near Brightman's Pond, Westerly, I heard the queer song of a Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowi*) and soon saw the bird perched on a small bush singing its weird note. I visited the meadow again on June 8 and heard the same male undoubtedly and in an adjoining meadow there was another male singing. No doubt this species breeds with us, and further search will probably extend their range.

South Auburn, R. I., June 13, 1901.

HARRY S. HATHAWAY.

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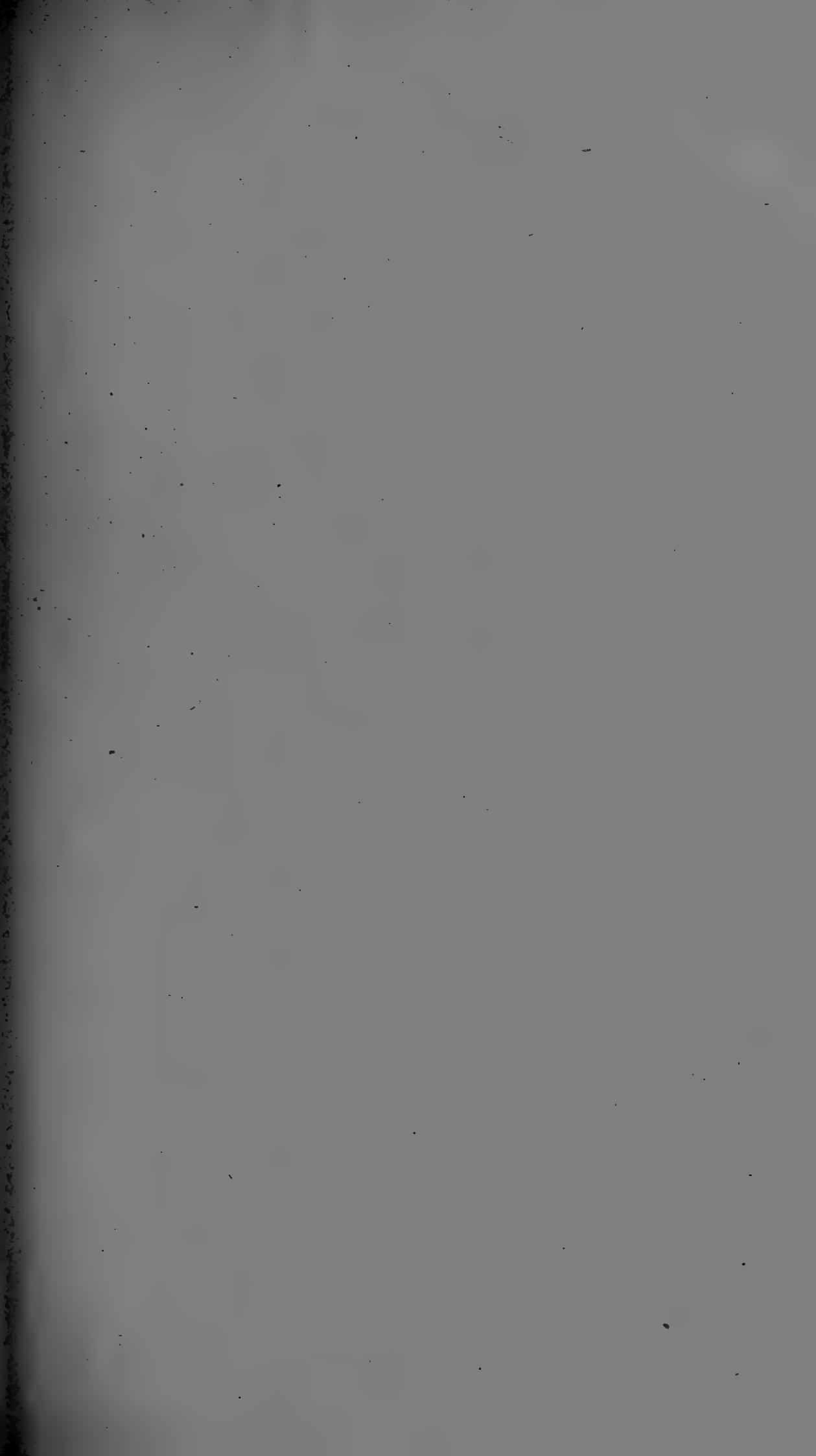
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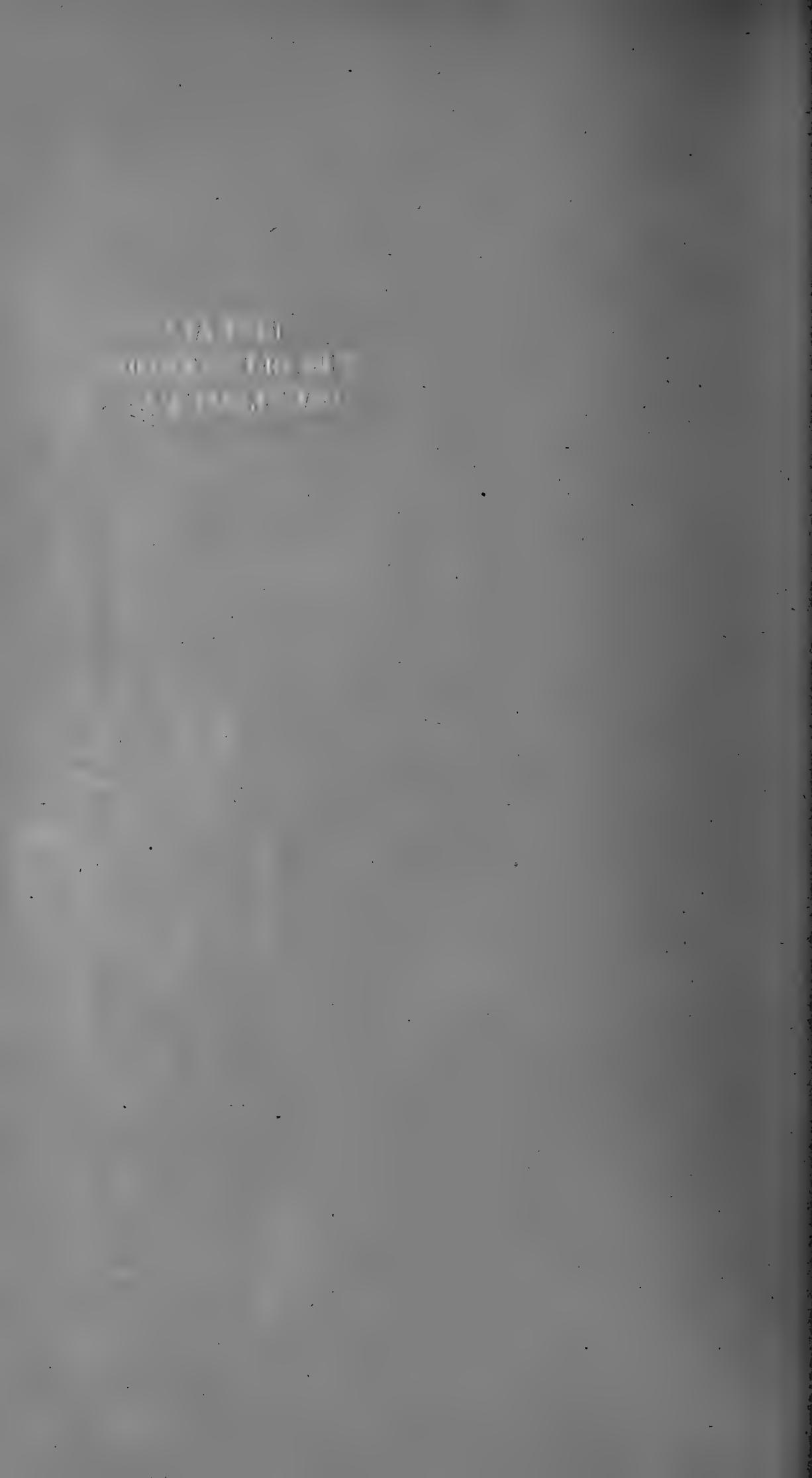
NOTES ON RHODE ISLAND ORNITHOLOGY

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With this issue the second volume of "Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology" is completed. The Editor hopes that all subscribers will at once renew their subscriptions that the publication of Volume III may be assured, for without doubt the paper is filling a needed place, and is worthy of maintenance.

The death by apoplexy on July 27, 1901, of Mr. S. Newton Dexter, of Providence, at Sakonnet Point, R. I., removed one of Rhode Island's most active and prominent scientists and ornithologists. Mr. Dexter was widely known among scientists, and the late work on the "Birds of Rhode Island" in which his name appears more than any other observer and collector proves the valuable work he did both for the advancement of knowledge and the furthering of collections.

The authors of the volume on Rhode Island birds are now particularly glad that their work was completed before Mr. Dexter's untimely death, for without his generous and unstinted aid the work must have fallen far short of completeness; and the present paper received from him encouragement to the extent of valuable communications and advanced subscription.

Rhode Island ornithologists will do well to follow the example of Mr. Dexter, and thus somewhat carry on the untiring work he laid down.

BIRDS OBSERVED ON PRUDENCE ISLAND, NARRAGANSETT BAY, RHODE ISLAND.

BY LOUIS DI ZEREGA MEARNS.

On August 30, 1901, my father and I spent eleven hours on Prudence Island, Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, and while there observed the following birds :

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).—Flocks on the bay.

White-winged Scoter (*Cædemia deglandi*).—One shot on the shore of Prudence Island. This was undoubtedly a "pensioner" or wounded bird. As they are not often seen in summer, the coloration of the soft parts were noted, as follows: An immature male, having a whitish breast and a white spot under the eye. Iris white. Bill plumbeous-black, transversely banded with white (in middle) and pink (on sides). Legs and feet, blackish slate, with tarsi and toes madder-brown anteriorly, obscurely dusky in median stripes. The gullet was empty; but the gizzard contained a good handful of gravel and shells of the common mussel (*Mytilus edulis* Linnæus) and the periwinkle (*Littorina littorea* Linnæus). The largest mussel measured $43 \times 24 \times 20$ mm., and the largest stone $25 \times 18 \times 12$ mm. The valves of the mussels were separate, but all matched, showing that the mollusks had been swallowed whole.

King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*).—Skeleton found on the beach. Skull preserved and identified by Dr. Robert Ridgway.

Green Heron (*Ardea virescens*).—Two were seen near a small pond, living among button-bushes.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*).—The Night-Heronry to which reference is made by Mr. Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., in "Birds of Rhode Island," is still occupied. It is located in a grove of soft maple trees, from which we flushed about 25 Night Herons at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Least Sandpiper (*Tringa minutilla*).—One shot on beach.

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*).—Very abundant along the shore. Two shot.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*).—Three were seen on the beach.

Semipalmated Plover (*Ægialitis semipalmata*).—One small flock seen. An immature female shot.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).—Two were seen along the beach in company with a flock of Ring Plovers.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*).—One, a brown bird, was seen coursing the island in search of prey.

American Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*).—Several were seen flying over and chirping like half-grown chickens. Eight were visible at once,

Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*).—Two were seen.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Trochilus colubris*).—Common, frequenting especially the flowering jewel weeds.

Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*).—Very abundant. Three shot at once.

American Crow (*Corvus americanus*).—Common in small parties. About 5 o'clock a flock of several hundred appeared on the highest part of the island. Shells of clams, oysters, mussels, and many other littoral shells have been scattered all over the island by Crows.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).—One female seen on an old fence-post.

Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*).—Several seen in marshy meadows.

American Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis*).—A great many were seen flying overhead.

Vesper Sparrow (*Poæcetes gramineus*).—One seen.

Savanna Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*).—About twenty seen in marshes and old fields.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza meloda*).—Very common everywhere; feeding on small purple berries.

Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*).—About ten seen or heard.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*).—A few seen flying over a marsh.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*).—Very abundant. Fifty were seen on one small dead limb of a mulberry-tree. Hundreds of them were perched on a barn.

Cedar Waxwing (*Ampelis cedrorum*).—Two were seen flying overhead.

Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans* William Palmer).—One was shot on a fence-post, near the residence of Mr. Daniel Chase. This bird was at once mailed, in the flesh, to Mr. J. William Critchley, the well-known taxidermist, to his old address in Providence, together with a letter requesting him to mount the Shrike and send it to the Natural History Museum, in Roger Williams Park, as a present from me; but Mr. Critchley having recently moved to New York, both the letter and package were forwarded, and the latter disappeared. This bird bore slight traces of immaturity, and, from its large size, it was doubtless a male. Its measurements were as follows: Length, 237; alar expanse, 324; wing, 104; tail, 106; culmen (chord), 16.3; tarsus, 26.5; middle toe and claw, 23 mm. This makes the third record for the State.

Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*).—Two shot; others seen.

Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*).—Abundant. One young male shot.

Brown Thrasher (*Harporrhynchus rufus*).—Two seen in the underbrush.

Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*).—Several seen and heard; one young male shot.

American Robin (*Merula migratoria*).—Very common everywhere. One young female, scarcely able to fly, was shot.

WATER-BIRD SHOOTING ABOUT NEWPORT FROM
1867 TO 1874.

(To be continued.)

SPRING.

1872: *Gallinago delicata*, March 23 to May 5 = 246 birds.
Anas obscura, April 22 = 1 bird.

AUTUMN.

Philohela minor, July 8 to Nov. 16 = 126 birds.
Micropalama himantopus, July 18 to Sept. 19 = 6 birds.
Totanus flavipes, July 18 to Sept. 30 = 293 birds.
Bartramia longicauda, Aug. 2 to Sept. 7 = 4 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus, Aug. 4 to Sept. 5 = 81 birds.
Symphechia semipalmata, Aug. 9 = 9 birds.
Anas obscura, Aug. 10 to Oct. 25 = 7 birds.
Porzana carolina, Aug. 17 to Oct. 4 = 9 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus, Aug. 19 to Oct. 20 = 108 birds.
Arenaria interpres, Aug. 21 = 6 birds.
Charadrius dominicus, Aug. 26 to Sept. 22 = 32 birds.
Rallus virginianus, Aug. 28 = 10 birds.
Querquedula discors, Sept. 1 to 18 = 40 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis, Sept. 3 to Oct. 23 = 30 birds.
Limosa haemastica, Sept. 11 to 20 = 16 birds.
Tringa maculata, July 18 to Oct. 9 = 178 birds.
Nettion carolinense, Sept. 18 to Oct. 21 = 23 birds.
Æx sponsa, Sept. 18 = 4 birds.
Dafila acuta, Sept. 20 to Oct. 21 = 9 birds.
Fulica americana, Sept. 26 to Oct. 9 = 28 birds.
Colinus virginianus, Oct. 15 to Nov. 16 = 80 birds.
Spatula clypeata, Oct. 21 = 2 birds.
Charitonetta albeola, Oct. 23 = 4 birds.
Mareca americana, Oct. 25 = 4 birds.

Total, 1356 birds.

SPRING.

1873: *Gallinago delicata*, March 27 to April 28 = 349 birds.
Branta canadensis, April 3 = 3 birds.

AUTUMN.

Philohela minor, July 5 to 31 = 276 birds.
Totanus flavipes, Aug. 1 to Sept. 24 = 395 birds.

Totanus melanoleucus, Aug. 19 to Oct. 19 = 419 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus, Aug. 1 to 21 = 161 birds.
Numenius longirostris, Aug. 2 to 14 = 8 birds.
Microptala himantopus, Aug. 3 to 20 = 42 birds.
Symphebia semipalmata, Aug. 4 to 19 = 29 birds.
Tringa maculata, Aug. 4 to Oct. 19 = 602 birds.
Limosa haemastica, Aug. 29 to Oct. 13 = 24 birds.
Limosa fedoa, Aug. 6 to 24 = 9 birds.
Tringa canutus, Aug. 12 to 30 = 79 birds.
Charadrius dominicus, Aug. 26 to Oct. 13 = 126 birds.
Dafila acuta, Sept. 10 to Oct. 8 = 15 birds.
Anas obscura, Sept. 10 to Oct. 22 = 16 birds.
Numenius hudsonicus, Sept. 26 = 7 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis, Sept. 27 to Nov. 7 = 31 birds.
Gallinago delicata, Sept. 3 to Oct. 19 = 144 birds.
Spatula clypeata, Oct. 2 = 2 birds.
Mareca americana, Oct. 8 = 3 birds.
Fulica americana, Oct. 15 = 15 birds.
Charitonetta albeola, Oct. 20 = 26 birds.
Nettion carolinense, Oct. 25 to Nov. 2 = 10 birds.
Nyroca affinis, Nov. 4 = 2 birds.

Total, 2790 birds.

SPRING.

1874: *Gallinago delicata*, April 2 to 29 = 219 birds.

AUTUMN.

Philocela minor, July 6 to 20 = 38 birds.
Totanus flavipes, July 22 to Sept. 19 = 513 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus, Aug. 1 to Oct. 18 = 353 birds.
Microptala himantopus, July 6 to Aug. 23 = 69 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus, July 24 to Aug. 23 = 238 birds.
Tringa maculata, July 26 to Oct. 20 = 668 birds.
Tringa canutus, Aug. 3 to Sept. 7 = 93 birds.
Symphebia semipalmata, Aug. 4 to 15 = 12 birds.
Limosa haemastica, Aug. 10 to Sept. 30 = 16 birds.
Porzana carolina, Aug. 10 = 12 birds.
Bartramia longicauda, Aug. 15 to 24 = 5 birds.
Charadrius dominica, Aug. 27 to Oct. 24 = 86 birds.
Numenius longirostris, July 29 = 1 bird.
Numenius hudsonicus, Oct. 2 = 11 birds.
Numenius borealis, Aug. 27 = 7 birds.
Querquedula discors, Sept. 3 to Sept. 20 = 67 birds.
Gallinago delicata, Sept. 4 to Oct. 22 = 160 birds.

- Dafila acuta*, Sept. 26 = 3 birds.
Anas obscura, Sept. 29 to Nov. 4 = 26 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis, Oct. 2 to 27 = 115 birds.
Nyroca marila, Oct. 15 to 23 = 12 birds.
Tringa a. pacifica, Oct. 19 = 8 birds.
Charitonetta albeola, Oct. 24 to 30 = 24 birds.
Fulica americana, Oct. 26 to Nov. 4 = 14 birds.
Nyroca americana, Oct. 27 = 3 birds.
Spatula clypeata, Oct. 28 = 4 birds.
Nettion carolinense, Oct. 30 = 3 birds.

Total, 2780 birds.

RECAPITULATION.

- Colinus virginianus* (Quail), Oct. 15 to Nov. 16 = 97 birds.
Ectopistes migratorius (Wild Pigeon), Oct. 19, 1868 = 1 bird.
Rallus virginianus (Virginia Rail), July 27 to Sept. 14 = 17 birds.
Porzana carolina (Sora Rail), Aug. 10 to Oct. 18 = 109 birds.
Gallinula (galeata ?) (Gallinule), Sept. 28 = 4 birds.
Fulica americana (Pond Coot), Sept. 26 to Nov. 14 = 193 birds.
Arenaria interpres (Rock Plover), Aug. 18, to Sept. 5 = 32 birds.
Squatarola squatarola. Strange to say none are recorded.
Charadrius dominicus (Greenhead), Aug. 14 to Oct. 24 = 386 birds.
Ægialites vocifera (Kildeer), July 21 to Aug. 1 = 2 birds.
Numenius longirostris (Long-billed Curlew), July 15 to 29 = 2 birds.
 " *hudsonicus* (Jack Curlew), Aug. 26 to Sept. 2 = 30 birds.
 " *borealis* (Eskimo Curlew), Aug. 27 = 7 birds.
Limosa haemastica (Ring-tailed Marlin), July 22 to Oct. 13 = 104 birds.
 " *fedoa* (Big Marlin), Aug. 6 to Oct. 2 = 26 birds.
Macrorrhampus griseus (Dowitcher), July 7 to Oct. 20 = 1058 birds.
Micropalama himantopus (Mongrel), July 6 to Sept. 19 = 279 birds.
Sympheeria semipalmata (Willet), July 11 to Sept. 18 = 106 birds.
Totanus melanoleucus (Big Legs), Spring, May 9 to 14 = 22 birds;
 Autumn, July 20 to Nov. 4 = 1362 birds.
Totanus flavipes (Yellow-legs) July 7 to Oct. 1 = 2499 birds.
Bartramia longicauda (Grass Plover), Aug. 2 to Sept. 7 = 25 birds.
Tringa maculata (Creeker), July 16 to Oct. 20 = 2337 birds.
 " *canutus* (Robin Snipe), Aug. 1 to Sept. 14 = 391 birds.
 " *a. pacifica* (Winter Snipe), Oct. 2 to 19 = 17 birds.
Gallinago delicata (Snipe), Spring, March 23 to May 5 = 1277 birds.
 Autumn, Aug. 12 to Nov. 14 = 466 birds.
Philohela minor (Woodcock), July 15 to Nov. 16 = 453 birds.
Æx sponsa (Wood Duck), July 30 to Nov. 11 = 21 birds.
Branta canadensis (Canada Goose), Spring, April 3; Autumn, Nov. 1 = 4 birds.

- Anas boschas* (Mallard), Oct. 22 = 4 birds.
 " *obscura* (Black Duck), Spring, April 22 = 1 bird; Autumn, Aug. 10 to Nov. 18 = 25 birds.
Chaulelasmus streperus (Gadwall), Oct. 27 = 3 birds.
Mareca americana (Widgeon), Oct. 8 to 25 = 7 birds.
Nettion carolinense (Green-winged Teal), Sept. 2 to Nov. 7 = 78 birds.
Dafila acuta (Gray Duck), Sept. 9 to Nov. 11 = 32 birds.
Querquedula discors (Blue-winged Teal), Aug. 27 to Nov. 5 = 195 birds.
Spatula clypeata (Shoveller), Oct. 2 to 28 = 8 birds.
Nyroca americana (Red-head), Oct. 8 to 25 = 7 birds.
 " *vallisneria* (Canvas-back), Spring, April; Autumn, Oct. 9 = 3 birds.
Nyroca marila (Scaup Duck), Oct. 5 to Nov. 11 = 30 birds.
 " *affinis* (Little Scaup), Nov. 4 = 2 birds.
Charitonetta albeola (Buffle-head), Oct. 20 to Nov. 5 = 92 birds.
Erismatura jamaicensis (Broad-bill), July 30 to Nov. 14 = 438 birds.
 Total, 12,168 birds.

GENERAL NOTES.

A Trip to Sakonnet.—On September 23, 1901, I started on a shooting excursion to Sakonnet Pt., R. I. As we were sailing round from Newport we passed close to Cormorant Rock near which were seen several Cormorants, one species of Scoter, Terns and Herring Gulls. We shot on the marsh for a day and a half (Sept. 24-25) and killed the following birds:

- 3 Blue-winged Teal (*Q. discors*).
- 1 Curlew (*N. hudsonicus*).
- 7 Yellow-legs (*T. melanoleucus*).
- 46 Kriekers (*T. maculata*).
- 2 Plover (*C. dominicus*).
- 1 Great Blue Heron (*A. herodias*).

The following were seen also:

- 6 Black Duck (*A. obscura*).
- 3 Baldpate (?) (*M. americana*).
- 1 Yellow-leg (*T. flavipes*).
- 1 Red-backed Sandpiper (*T. a. pacifica*).
- 2 White-rumped Sandpipers (*T. fuscicollis*).
- 3 Black-bellied Plover (*S. squatarola*).
- 20 Peep (*Ereunetes pusillus*).
- 3 Peep (*T. minutilla*).
- 2 Ring-necks (*A. semipalmata*).
- 2 Lesser (?) Scaup Duck (*Nyroca affinis*).

Several Marsh Hawks and Sparrow Hawks were seen and about sixteen Great Blue Herons, one of which was shot. One Green Heron (*B. virescens*) was also seen, and about twenty Teal.

Newport.

LEROY KING.

Two Interesting Notes.—On the morning of July 17, 1901, while riding my bicycle across the level stretch of road between Easton Point and Newport I noticed a flock of ten Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Ereunetes pusillus*). They were flying rapidly before the wind, apparently coming from the beach just south of the road and going to some marshes north. On one side of the road are ten telephone wires about twenty feet above the ground. Into these wires the flock dashed at full speed and a mix-up followed. Two fell dead to the ground and two more fluttered away to die in the tall grass.

On August 27, 1901, I took a Baird's Sandpiper (*Tringa bairdii*) at Middletown. This is the fifth record for the state.

Newport.

EDWARD STURTEVANT.

Capture of two Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Linn.)).—So uncommon is the Bald Eagle in this state that one is very fortunate to collect a single bird, but it fell to the lot of Capt. E. P. Sisson of the Sandy Point Life Saving Station to shoot two of these noble birds on the beach at the northern end of Block Island on May 5, 1900.

They were in immature plumage and one which was placed in the Charles H. Smith collection at Roger Williams Park measured as follows: Length, 36 inches; extent, 6 feet, 11 inches; wing, 23 inches; tail, 14½ inches.

While at Quonochontang, R. I., on Sept. 7, 1901, I saw towards night one of this species flying west along shore.

South Auburn, Sept. 20, 1901.

H. S. HATHAWAY.

COMMUNICATIONS.

NEW LONDON, CONN.

July 27, 1901.

REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR.

Dear Sir:—You will be pleased to learn that I have found a Colony of *Fish Crows* "nesting" within sight of Watch Hill near the R. I. border—5 pairs with sets of eggs $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{5}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, young, a day or so old—*Rough-winged Swallows* taken nearer and nearer each year to R. I. line also, and it behooves you to watch closely as Hooded Warblers, Fish-Crows, and Rough-wings may be found any time on the R. I. side.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES H. HILL.

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